



The Jacob Hunter Trust Newsletter



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Hunter Family Origins

By Dr. Raymond Hunter, Royston, Georgia

The ancestry of our Hunter line has been, and still is, a topic that generates a considerable amount of heat. Here is what I know, and what I have deduced, from all records that I have seen. The Clan Hunter then sitting chief, Neil Hunter, appointed a clan historian (Dr. "Pat" Patterson) who explored a lot of vague references and concluded that the original chief and his family received a grant of land at Hunterston from William the Conqueror (known in his lifetime as William the Bastard, but that has been euphemized by his adorers, especially the public school history teachers). Pat and I had several fairly extended conversations on the subject. He relied heavily on two items: first, that in the batch of women in William's court (a "lady-in-waiting") was a young girl supposedly named Hunter; second, that David I of Scotland was posted by his older brother, King Alexander of Scotland, to William's palace to learn the ways of the Norman French Kings, and there married Maud, a grand-niece of William (the proof of that marriage is a bit questionable, but never mind). David returned to Scotland after a few years to serve his brother-king in various capacities, including heading up an inquiry to settle the matter of the extent of church lands in the area south and west of Glasgow. That session was held in 1116, and the resulting agreement between local principal landholders and the church was signed by William Hunter (actually as "Venator," in Latin as was done with all legal documents involving the church). David succeeded to the throne on the unexpected death of his brother in 1124. Pat concluded that the standing of David and William Hunter was such that the latter was given a grant of land at Hunterston.

Now, there is a big problem—or rather two: first, there is a print of an article dated 1110 with drawing in Blairquhon, palace of Jamie Blair-Hunter, in 1987 (when I attended a clan gathering of the Hunters) one of the three managers and owners of the Royal Bank of Scotland, that shows a wooden castle described as the castle of

**The Jacob Hunter Trust
Phone: 618 997-1044**

10202 Briggs Road

Marion, IL 62959-5844

e-mail: rich@jacobhuntertrust.org

Newsletter on the web: <http://www.JacobHunterTrust.org>

the Hunters at Hunterston. While David may well have been enchanted with the Normans and William and might have given a grant of land to a Norman in William's court, known as William Hunter/Venator, David was in no position to grant anything to anybody in 1110, it being 14 years before he would become king, with no notion on anybody's part that he would in fact be so destined. William the Conqueror certainly could not grant Scottish land to anybody, in spite of his notion that Scotland had somehow shown fealty to William. So the story of the Hunters being the recipient of a grant of land because of being a favored Norman does not pass the "Giggle Test." Further, no landholder who acquired land in the area around Hunterston as late as 1110 (the first documented reference to the Hunters having a castle) would have been included as one of the thirty principal residents in that area in 1116, when William Hunter signed the document concluding the session chaired by David.

Second, there is no reference to any Norman receiving any recognition as far north as Glasgow as early as 1116. William was busy consolidating his acquisition in England. David did finally grant lands to a few Normans, notably the Bruce, Balliol, and FitzAlan heads, but that came well after he was king in 1124. Any person who had become sufficiently powerful and important to be on the document in 1116 simply had to have been in residence there for a substantial period of time. The Clan's official history that claims that William Hunter/Venator was the chief huntsman for William the Bastard is plain eyewash, and when I said as much to Pat Patterson, he grinned and agreed. He embellished the few things he had been able to document with a lot of unsupported entries done to please Neil Hunter, who was enamored with his presumed Norman-French ancestry.

I am persuaded that William Hunter/Venator was the chief of a clan that had been living in the area of Hunterston, including the Milbrae Islands, for a long time, and that they were therefore of Scottish/Norse extraction. Well, my notion is no more provable than was the stuff put out by Pat. It is, at least, defensible in terms of the history of Scotland. Between the 800s and the Battle of Largs in 1263 that was turned by the Hunters on clan property, the Norse had pillaged and then settled in the area in some numbers. Indeed it was the fact of Norse blood and ancestry of many of the settlers there that justified Haakon's abortive invasion that landed in the area around Largs.

Turn the clock forward quite a bit, and we come to the accession of King James VI of Scotland to the throne of England as James I in 1603. He soon had to contend with a bout of insurrection by the Irish in the area of Tyrone County, and in 1607 he solved his problem (sort of) by clearing all the Irish from what became known as Ulster, and invited the Scots to move across the channel and take over that land. A flood of Scots did so, and thereby set the stage for the "Scot-Irish." They did not mingle with the Irish south of the Ulster border and so remained "pure" Scottish. The United Kingdom shortly afterward opened the Virginia colony and then that of Carolina to

the British settlers, offering a land patent of about 45-50 acres of land for each settler, based on giving the land to the person who paid the passage over. Scotland was then in a hassle with the church authorities, and the Covenanter movement well underway, so a lot of Scots headed for the new colony. That included those from Ulster and those directly from southern Scotland, although the two mixed in because most immigrant ships set out from Belfast because that was a safer port than those in Scotland, such as Glasgow. At one point, more than half of the residents in the American colonies were of Scottish descent (including the so-called Scot-Irish).

Some think that our Hunters came from England. Good possibility; there was a migration of Scots from the area of Hunterston and Peeblesshire eastward along the region given to sheep and wool industry. It is highly instructive that William of Nansemond was known soon as "weaver." Martha Rester of Santa Rosa Beach, Florida located a most promising set of information. Records from *The Register Book of Ingleby iuxta Grenhow*, by John Blackburne, 1889, give the marriage and children's birth records for Nicholas Hunter and Ellen Wood. They were married in Greenhow, North Riding, Yorkshire, in 1637 and had children Mary, Elizabeth (who died as an infant), Henry, Sara, Rebecca, Dinah, and William, born between 1639 and 1653. The birth of William in 1653 fits very well with the inferred birth of William Hunter of Nansemond County, Virginia.

The town of Ingleby Greenhow and tiny village of Battersby lie on the eastern fringe of the principal sheep-growing region of northern England. The region north of Settle and Skipton is solid with herds of sheep, laced with the classic free-standing stone fences that date to the 8th century. The sheep-growing region extends unbroken through Northumberland to the border of Scotland, and through southern Scotland to the center in Moffat.

Strong support for this being the birthplace of William Hunter of Nansemond comes from the Rountree family connection; Charles Rountree paid the transportation of William Hunter to the Virginia Colony. The Rountree family was located in the North Riding district of Yorkshire.

A bit more documentation is needed before we can conclude that this is definitely the location of the family of William Hunter of Nansemond; research is in progress to explore the records in North Riding for just such proof.

Biography

Dr. Raymond Hunter recently retired after a career in theoretical physics at the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories, Valdosta State University, and the Los Alamos National Laboratory. He served nine years as Membership Chairman for Clan Hunter Association USA.

**The Jacob Hunter Trust
Phone: 618 997-1044**

10202 Briggs Road

Marion, IL 62959-5844

e-mail: rich@jacobhuntertrust.org

Newsletter on the web: <http://www.JacobHunterTrust.org>

The Known History of William Hunter, Weaver of Nansemond

By Hunter M. Cole

In 1685, during the reign of James II, William Hunter, the immigrant ancestor in this line of American Hunters, arrived in the upper parish of Nansemond County, Virginia. The land on which he settled is in the coastal Albemarle region and the native homeland of the Nansemond, the Meherrin, and the Chowanac Indians. In 1728 after the boundary line between Virginia and North Carolina was resurveyed, the land of the Nansemond Hunters lay within Chowan County, North Carolina. Today the old Hunter tracts are near the town of Sunbury, in Gates County.

A number of researchers have theorized that William Hunter, a weaver by profession, was Scottish, since his surname is Scottish and since sheep-raising Scots were noted for textile production. Since the names of William Hunter and his son Nicholas recur in parish records of Alnwick, Northumbria, perhaps he was Northumbrian. Some have claimed that he and William Hunter of Sandwich and Barnstable, Massachusetts, were the same person. The two Williams' surviving records are from the same years of the early eighteenth century, and a few family names are common in the two families. One key to identifying William of Nansemond is his four sons, Nicholas, William, Robert, and Isaac.

In 2011, the Barnstable/Nansemond theory was disproved. Commissioned by Still Hunter, Jr. (a descendant of William's son Nicholas), Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL, FASG, and Melinde Lutz Byrne, FASG, undertook an analytical investigation of the Sandwich records. Their research concludes that William Hunter and his wife Rebecca Besse did not leave Massachusetts and were not the contemporary settlers of Nansemond. The documented list of their known children (Elisha, William, Allse, Thomas, Jonathan, and Rebecca) does not include a Nicholas, Robert, or Isaac, children of William of Nansemond, whose bequests to sons Nicholas and Robert can be documented. Implications in the Massachusetts will of William, a son of William and Rebecca Hunter of Barnstable/Sandwich, are that William and Rebecca were living together in Massachusetts in 1715, not in Nansemond: ("I give and bequeath to my honored father William Hunter, whome I make & Ordain my Sole Executor to this my Last Will & Testament . . . and one half of my estate to be to Rebeckah my Honored mother . . ." *Plymouth County Probate, copybook 4, pp. 214-215, will, probate, and inventory of William Hunter of Situate, mariner, 14 July 1715, Massachusetts Judicial Archives, Columbia Point*).

Other research suggests that William Hunter of Nansemond, like many other immigrants, may have come to Virginia from Barbados, England's richest colony in the seventeenth century. Barbados served as a midstation for many who hoped to settle on the Colonial mainland. A William Hunter is documented there in 1679 as

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serving in the Barbadian militia: "List of ye Souldiours undr my Command and to whom they doe belong taken at a Muster ye 6th of this Instant January with defaults for nonappearance that Day . . . William Hunter" (*James Brandom, Omitted Chapters from Hotten's, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1982*, p. 115).

William Hunter of Isle of Wight County, Virginia, another contemporaneous William whom some wrongly have surmised to be William of Nansemond, also can be deleted from the list of claimants. Names of legatees in his will remove him from consideration: his wife Elizabeth, his daughters Mary, Ann, and Martha, and his brother James, none of whom is in the Nansemond line. He died on 29 April 1820 (*Blanche Adams Chapman, Wills and Administrations of Isle of Wight County, Virginia, 1647-1800. Vol. Two. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1975*, p. 2).

Another William Hunter, a very promising candidate discovered by Martha Rester, is recorded in *The Register Book of Ingleby iuxta Grenhow . . . since the Yeare of Our Lord 1539*, compiled by John Blackburne from the original registry of births, christenings, and weddings (*Cambridge: Cross & Jackson, 1889*). Ingleby Greenhow is in North Riding of Yorkshire and west of Northumbria. A child named William Hunter was born there in the town of Battersby. The registry, which also includes several entries for Rountree, a family closely associated with the Hunters of Nansemond, reports that Nicholas Hunter and Ellen Wood were married in 1637. On 26 November 1639 daughter Mary ("Maria") was born to "Nicholai Hunter de Battersbye." On 23 May, Elizabeth, daughter of "Nicholai Hunter de Battersby," was born. On 21 June 1643, "Elizabeth 'infans vel ab ubere pendens,' " ("an infant, or still nursing ['hanging from the breast']," daughter of Nicholas Hunter, was buried. On 9 May 1644, Henry "fil of Nicholai Hunter," was born. On 12 April 1646, Sara "fil of Nicholai Hunter," was born. On 12 September 1648, Rebecca, "fil of Nicholai Hunter," was born. In 1651 (no month or date is given) Dinah, "fil of Nicholai Hunter," was born. On 14 November 1653, William, "son of Nicholas Hunter," was born. If this is William of Nansemond, he would have been thirty-two in 1685, the year his name appeared on Charles Rountree's Virginia patent. Since the son of William of Nansemond also was named Nicholas and was included as a headright on Rountree's patent, evidently the name Nicholas was continuing the tradition prevalent in British and Colonial families of naming the first-born in honor of his paternal grandfather.

At present, the earliest unquestionable evidence shows that William Hunter was among seven persons Charles Rountree transported to "Up. Par. Of Nanzamund . . . by the Scypress SW." Rountree's land patent, dated 4 November 1685, lists "Willm. Hunter, Nicho. Hunter, Joane Hunter, Charles Rountree, Robert Rountree, Rebecka Hunter, John Sayre" (*Virginia Patent Book Seven*, p. 487). Rountree was granted fifty acres for each of these persons he brought into the county. Later records prove that Nicholas was William's son. The patent does not specify William Hunter's place of origin, nor does it identify Joane, Rebecka, or John Sayre, but in the birth records

of Ingleby, Yorkshire, "Rebecca" is the name of William Hunter's sister. It recurs as the name of the wife of William's son Nicholas.

On 21 April 1695 William Hunter, identified as "William Hunter of Nansemond weaver," was granted a patent of his own, "200 acres on the eastward side of the main cypress swamp that runs out of Bennetts Creek," for having imported four Negro slaves (*Virginia Patent Book Eight*, p. 43). The patent suggests that within ten years William had become sufficiently prosperous to acquire four slaves and his own land. Appropriately in this land transaction, William does not claim himself as a headright, since Rountree already had claimed him in the patent of 1685. In his will William Hunter would bequeath this tract to his son Robert.

Before the end of the century William had risen in prominence. On 8 June 1699 he was listed as one of twelve justices of the quorum in Nansmond County (*Virginia Magazine of History & Biography*, I, June 1894, p. 232, as cited from records in the British Public Records Office). With prominence came prosperity, for William may have financed an immigration voyage for his son's family. This seems evident from another patent the Crown granted to William on 25 April 1702. It consisted of 240 acres adjoining his tract in Upper parish on the southeastern side of Meherrin Swamp. To this land "beginning at a white oak standing on a small branch or corner tree of a patent formerly granted to ye sd. Hunter" he transported five persons claimed as headrights: "Wm. Hunter [son of William the weaver] & his wife & his daughter Alice & his son Nicho. Hunter [William the weaver's grandson], [and] Mary Cohon [her identity is unknown, although her surname links with Hunters in the parish of Alnwick, Northumbria]" (*Virginia Patent Book Nine*, pp. 309-310). Virginia's headright system allowed a person to be a headright only one time. As a justice of the quorum, William would have known the illegality of his identifying himself as a headright on this third patent bearing his name. This tract he would bequeath to his son Nicholas.

In the late seventeenth century the population of Nansemond County was small. In 1699 it was 2,571 (*William A. Kretzschmar et al. handbook of the Linguistic Atlas of the Middle and Atlantic States. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994*, p. 327). In his community William was listed among magistrates and militia officers (*Cecil Hedlam, ed. Calendar of State Papers, Colonial Series. Vol. 2: America and West Indies, Jan.-Dec. 1, 1702, Preserved in Public Record Office [Vaduz: Draus Reprint Ltd., 1964], first published in London: HMSO, 1912*, pp. 155-160).

From 1702 to 1714 William continued to serve as a "clerk," or justice of the quorum (*Virginia Magazine of History & Biography*, June 1894, p. 368). One surviving document from 25 May 1702 provides a glimpse of Judge William Hunter on the bench. "Mary Williams of Nansemond Co., Va., complained to the Board of Wm Hunter of Lowr parish of Nansemond Co. did on ye 16 instant send Constable to her house and take away her child and contrary to law bound him for 21 years. . . .

**The Jacob Hunter Trust
Phone: 618 997-1044**

10202 Briggs Road

Marion, IL 62959-5844

e-mail: rich@jacobhuntertrust.org

Newsletter on the web: <http://www.JacobHunterTrust.org>

(*Executive journals, Council of Colonial Virginia. Vol. Two, p. 245, quoted in Filmore Norfleet Papers, Virginia State Library*).

Another public record underlines William's prominence and his sizable land holdings. It identifies him as "captain," possibly for heading a militia company: "Captain William Hunter" was enumerated in *A Compleat List of the Rent Roll of the Land in Nansemond County in anno 1704*, with 800 acres (*The Quit Rents of Virginia, compiled and alphabetized by Annie Laurie Wright Smith, 1957*).

William Hunter is documented as a witness to the transfer of a patent dated 19 October 1700, when Nicholas Stallings sold Robert Rountree of Nansemond County a tract on Bennetts Creek (J. R. B. Hathaway, ed. *The North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register. Vol. One, January 1900*, p. 89). A land patent dated 7 November 1700 assigned John Moor 481 acres in the "Up Par. of Nansemond Co. on both sides of Holmes' Br. & the Oysterlongs Br.," adjacent to land of William Hunter (*Virginia Patent Book Nine*, p. 38). Another patent, granted to William Sumner and dated 14 June 1714, records that William Hunter owned land adjacent to Sumner's sixty-eight acres in the "Up. Par. of Nansemond Co. at a place called Gordon's Marsh at Orapeak" (*Virginia Patent Book Ten*, p. 141).

A Chowan County deed mentions that Thomas Rountree, attorney for Nicholas Hunter and his wife Rebecca of Carteret County, North Carolina, transferred on 17 March 1729 from Nicholas to his son William Hunter, the land cited as a bequest to Nicholas from his father William Hunter: ". . . one hundred & twenty acres more or less being part of a patent formerly granted to Wm. Hunter, late of the Upper Parish of Nansemond, deceased, father of the afsd. Nichs Hunter, party to these presents as by patent from the authority of Virginia bearing date the 25 of April 1701 [1702], doth & may appear, & by the last will & testament of the afsd Wm. Hunter deceased descended to Nics. Hunter: (*Chowan Deed Book C 1, pp. 599-601*).

William's will, destroyed perhaps in courthouse fires that burned the Nansemond records, may have been signed ca. 1729. The lost will is mentioned again in an indenture dated 16 February 1742, in which William's son Robert Hunter sold his brother Isaac a tract their father had passed to Robert: "the said land being part of two patents the first being a patent formerly granted to William Hunter late of the upper parish of Nansemond deceast being lawful father of the aforesaid Isaac Hunter and Robert Hunter both the parties for the quantity of two hundred acres as by a patent being dated the twenty first day of April which was in the year of our Lord Christ sixteen hundred and ninety five both and may appear and by the last will & testament of the said William Hunter deceased to his son Robert Hunter" (*Chowan Deed Book A, pp. 257-259*).

In 1728, when the border between Virginia and North Carolina was redrawn, the new configuration placed many southern Virginia tracts within North Carolina. In 1727

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Judge William Hunter was still serving in the courts, but in Elizabeth City County, Virginia. Is this judge the same person as Judge William Hunter of Nansemond? Were there two contemporaneous William Hunters in the judiciaries of the Albemarle? In 1729, a report titled "The Present State of Virginia with respect to the Colony in General" the name William Hunter is missing from the list of Nansemond justices, but it is included as "William Hunters [sic]" among Elizabeth City County's fifteen justices of the peace and justices of the quorum (*English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records, compiled by Louis des Cognets, Jr., Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1958, p. 45—records des Cognets researched in the British Public Records Office*). In that year this William Hunter also became a member of the "peace commission": "On the application of the Justices of Elizabeth City County it is ordered that Edward Jones, William Hunter, John Brodie and William Westwood Gent be added to the Commission of the peace for the said county (*Executive Journals of the Council of Virginia. Vol. Four, October 25, 1721-October 28, 1739*, published by the Virginia State Library, 1930, p. 151). If this Judge Hunter is William the weaver of Nansemond, he died not long after he was added to the Elizabeth City County council.

William's name proliferated in his descendants, and other William Hunters in the weaver's immediate family survived him. His son William's will was signed in Chowan County in 1732 and witnessed by his brothers Robert and Isaac. The weaver's grandson named William became a burgess in the Virginia House of Burgesses. These two Williams would be the William Hunters whose names appear in the St. Paul Parish vestry minutes and in the Albermarle's public reports after 1729.

Such, then, are the few extant records of William Hunter, immigrant, weaver, justice of the quorum, magistrate, captain, and freeholder of Nansemond. Genealogists searching for additional history of Judge Hunter and the Hunters of Nansemond perhaps will find documents among Colonial records in the Public Records Office in London or in the historical holdings of various English counties.

Researched and reported by Hunter M. Cole, November 2012

Biography:

Hunter Cole is a great-great-great-great-great grandson of William Hunter of Nansemond. After a quarter century in publishing, Cole retired in 2003 and spent the following seven years documenting the Hunter genealogy in collaboration with Martha Rester, creating the web site "The Hunters of Nansemond: The Family of James Alston Hunter and Martha Harris Hunter," and researching the Legs Murder, Mississippi's great crime story of the 1930s. His book The Legs Murder Scandal was published in 2010 and reprinted in 2012. He lives at Cole Ridge Farm near Brandon, Mississippi.

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Searching for William Hunter (the weaver)

By Hunter M. Cole

Serious searchers of William Hunter of Nansemond may find many documents of interest in Yorkshire parish records. Latest clues pinpoint the large English county of Yorkshire as the Nansemond Hunter's possible home county. Google Books makes available the transcriptions of several parish registers of Yorkshire (Manchester, Warrington, Chipping, Rochdale, Great Harwood, Kirkham, Wigan, Radcliffe, Chorley, Bolton, Padiham, Poulton-le-Fylde, Eccleston, Prescot, Dalton-in-Furness, and others). On [Ancestry.com](#) I have searched files that include towns and villages of Atwick, Stokesley, Ingleby Greenhow, Brandesburton, Weschohill, Harewood, Parrington, Sawley, Collingham, Cherry Burton, Ponterfract, Ripon, Giggleswick, Rotherham, Caverley, Pudsley, Doncaster, Dalton-in-Furness, and Sheffield. In 1902 the Yorkshire Parish Register Society was publishing transcriptions, and a number of these Yorkshire parish records can be browsed free of charge on Google Books. Dating from the 1500s, these feature Hunter christenings, marriages, and burials.

Although several Yorkshire registers also can be consulted on [Ancestry.com](#), the Google Books listings are more publicly accessible. The volumes are indexed, but when searching on Google, after one has selected which parish book to browse, a quicker access to "Hunter" comes via the computer's search buttons. Elsewhere, a large number of Yorkshire parish registries are now available online. A general Google search of "Yorkshire Parish Registries" offers a lengthy roster.

Filtering the many William Hunters will be a challenge. The known Nansemond Hunter names of William, Nicholas, and Robert are prominent in several Yorkshire parishes, and these particular names should be our guides. We know also that Hunters and Rountrees were linked in Nansemond. Possibly the two families were linked in England before immigration. Any marriages between Hunters and Rountrees in England would be hopeful signposts.

Determining exactly the place William of Nansemond originated will be demanding and time-consuming. Martha Rester and I have been devoting many hours to the Yorkshire search, but since the Yorkshire registers are vast in names and places, other descendants of William Hunter are urged to pitch in.

Before any of us trek to England to search, we should attempt to focus on transcriptions available here.

Although the archives of the British Public Records Office duplicate Colonial documents, including Nansemond records destroyed in courthouse fires, these Virginia files already have been mined. In 1957 Louis des Cognets, Jr., discovered them in the BPRO and in 1958 published English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records

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(Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1958, 1960, 1981). His book provides no new information about William and Nicholas Hunter, but the known facts about William (justice of the quorum, captaincy, and quit rent roll) are stated herein. Des Cognets cites also facts about ships that were registered as passing into and out of Virginia's ports in the 1690s. These plied the Atlantic as well as the coastal ports of the colonies from New England to South Carolina. A name some genealogists connect with the Nansemond Hunters is Norsworthy. Des Cognets documents "George Norsworthy" as the owner of a ship named George and Martha.

So, all who are eager to determine the history of William Hunter prior to his earliest known documentation (1685) might devote time and insight to the continuing search. Please become one of the active researchers.

Ghosts and Witches

By Leona Newton White (1886-1982)

Leona Newton White was a granddaughter of Jacob Hunter (II)(1809-1874) and Mary Moore Duncan Hunter (1814-1896). She was a daughter of Lucina Evaline Hunter Newton. Leona Newton White recorded her memories and dedicated them to her daughter Pauline White Mason (1911-2003). Leona's notebooks were given to the Jacob Hunter Trust for copying by her grandson, James Mason.

In her (*Mary Moore Duncan Hunter*) mother's time people believed in ghosts and witches. She (*Mary Moore Duncan Hunter, known affectionately as 'Aunt Pop'*) said she had seen her mother (*Lydia Spiller Duncan (1771-1843)*) get a switch and whip the churn when the butter wouldn't come. She said she was whipping the witches out of it.

My grandmother (*Mary Moore Duncan Hunter, 'Aunt Pop'*) was very superstitious herself and knew all the old superstitions. She knew my mother (*Lucina Evaline Hunter Newton*) was not superstitious and did not believe in ghosts and witches. And she (*Aunt Pop*) tried hard not to believe in them herself but childhood teachings are hard to discard.

I remember one of our neighbors came to spend the afternoon with my mother (*Lucina Evaline Hunter Newton*) bringing her three small children. They all had the sore eyes. Grandmother (*Aunt Pop*) would not look at their eyes for fear she would catch the sore eyes. If she forgot and did look, she would place her two thumbs side by side and steadily look at her thumbnails for a minute or two. That was an old fashioned preventative for sore eyes. She didn't take them (*catch sore eyes*) but we children did. Maybe we didn't look at our thumbs enough. I thought so at the time and thereafter I was very careful to look at my thumbs if I chanced upon anyone with the sore eyes.

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One of my father's friends spent the night at our house while we had the sore eyes and my sister Lula cried all night with her eyes; they hurt her so bad. We children thought she had disgraced us for life.

For the rooster to crow before the door of the house meant company, and it was an omen of death for a bird to fly into the house.

If the horses tail and mane were tangled and knotted in the morning, it was a sign that witches had ridden them the night before.

On no account must we kill a frog or our cows would give bloody milk.

For a hen to crow meant bad luck unless the hen was killed. Many an old hen crowed herself into a pot with dumplins in those days.

It was also considered bad luck for a girl to whistle. One of the sayings at that time was, "a whistling girl, and a crowing hen, will always come to a bad end."

For the nose to itch, it meant company. If the foot itched you would walk on land you never had before. And, if your hand itched you would shake hands with a stranger. If you back itched, that meant a whipping sure.

It was bad luck to start somewhere and have to go back into the house again, but if you would make a cross with your toe on the ground and spit in it, then you could safely go back.

Every unusual thing that happened was thought to be an omen, and every disaster was supposed to be caused by a witches curse.

If any stock died from an unknown cause, everyone supposed it to be bewitched by some witch that was mad at the owner. One sure way to find out was to burn the dead creature and the witch that bewitched it would begin to cramp in the limbs and the only remedy was to send to the owner of the animal and borrow turpentine to rub on. If they loaned the turpentine the cramping would immediately stop. If not, it would continue as long as the animal was burning. Consequently, every old person that was crippled with rheumatism was looked upon with suspicion.

She (*Aunt Pop*) would tell us children all these things and many more, and then would say, "But this is just all old folk sayings. I don't suppose any of it is true." We were all so glad when grandmother came to stay with us and we never wanted her to leave.

Autosomal DNA = New Clues

By Wayne Hunter

Just when you think you've exhausted all avenues of research for your ancestors, something new pops up. This time it's Autosomal DNA.

By now nearly everyone is familiar with the basics of DNA tests. The male line is tracked by yDNA and the female line by mtDNA. The two are mutually exclusive; neither test can track the opposite sex.

Autosomal DNA testing throws all that out the window.

Autosomal DNA tracks small chromosome sequences down the family line. Unlike the markers in a yDNA test which are always passed along the male line, there is a only a 50-50 chance that any individual will inherit a specific autosomal sequence from one of the parents. The sequences can be passed to either sex, but siblings may or may not inherit the same sequences. With each succeeding generation there is again, only a 50-50 chance that it will be passed down to a descendant. In short, though some of the Nansemond descendants possess exact copies of each others yDNA, we probably have widely differing autosomal chromosome sequences.

Several companies offer the testing (23andMe.com; Ftdna.com; Ancestry.com) At \$99.00 Ancestry.com is the least expensive and it's large database of genealogy clients make it an excellent choice to try. I joined the "beta" test in May 2012. In July, I started getting results, and I've gotten 10 - 20 matches every week since that date.

Here's how it works. When any two people take the test, it searches for any matching sequences. When a match occurs, it's likely that the two individuals have a common ancestor though no specific ancestor can be positively identified. A paper trail is required to work out a positive connection.

"Matches" of two clients are broken into levels of probability, from high to very low. "High" means the connection probably occurs within 4 - 5 generations. Very low indicates greater than 8 generations distance.

If a last name exists in both trees and it occurs at a time that might indicate a common ancestor, that last name is prominently displayed, alerting you to a possible cousin and allowing a more detailed examination. If a specific individual can be found on both trees, that connection is displayed as a chart showing how the two trees are linked. Admittedly, most "matches" are inconclusive, offering slight clues to where the connection might lie, but in my case a surprising number have pinpointed specific ancestors shared by my tree and that of another tester.

Today, more than 12 weeks after results started coming in, I have found several specifically identified ancestors, over thirty probable connections, and dozens of others that may or may not turn out to be related. I have matched with our Hunter line in Chowan and Bertie in a couple of cases as well as other family lines in NC. In several cases, Rountree relatives seem to be involved, and indeed my 4gm is believed to be a Rountree.

There are some problems in the system. A reliable paper trail is of paramount importance. Without it, determining the common ancestor is really only guesswork. Some trees may have multiple ancestors in common, and there is no way of determining exactly which one provided the autosomal connection. Many matches have incomplete trees, many have no tree at all, many are marked as private, and in far too many cases the research seems suspect. Still, with all the difficulties, the test can come up with some unexpected results. In our case there are some new possibilities for our Hunter immigrant ancestor.

I have received two separate tests results that indicate that I am related to New England families that have early 18th century Hunters in their lines. In one case, a 95 % probability is indicated. There's no guarantee that it's the Hunter line that links us, but to the best of my knowledge I have no known New England ancestors on any side of my family. Two different trees with New England Hunters make it a very interesting possibility.

The two Hunter lines are as follows:

1. Adam Hunter b 1700 Boston MA.
Col James Hunter b 1735 Sagadahoc Maine
William Hunter b 1735
James Hunter b 1790 Kennebec, Maine.

This line indicates a 95% probability of kinship. Although Adam appears on other Ancestry.com trees, my "match" has no additional information for him, though some information does exist for Col James and Adam's descendants. I've never seen this line before, and it seems to be an unexplored line of research.

2. William Hunter b 1631 MA d 1676 Springfield MA.

This tree lists William Hunter of Alnwick as a son. The line traces other family in the Springfield area but does not document William of Alnwick other than to mention his death in Chowan in 1729. Although this William (1631) is included in a number of Barnstable Hunter trees on Ancestry.com, he does not seem to belong there, and I would consider that information questionable. He and his wife Priscilla Cornish seem very well documented in Springfield and are said to have had 9 children.

I've written to both parties, and they have little additional information and are not familiar with any living Hunter descendants. I don't think either tree conflicts with the Barnstable information that Still Hunter recently provided and believe both lines merit additional research. Either could be a direct family connection, or perhaps more likely, share a UK common ancestor with us.

The autosomal test can't provide a definite answer about kinship. Ultimately, we would have to find a living male descendant, yDNA test him, and compare his results with ours. Both lines seem to have had male descendants, so that might be possible.

And since autosomal DNA can differ even in the most closely related of cousins, it would be interesting to see if others from our Nansemond lines have autosomal connections with these New England families. I doubt if it's worth the expense of joining Ancestry.com just to take the test, but if you are already a member, you might want to give it some thought. The results might be surprising.

Lawrence Lee Hunter (1930-2012)

Lawrence Lee Hunter devoted his life to his family, his church, and in uncovering and sharing the history of the Hunter family. Lawrence was one of the original founders of the Jacob Hunter Trust. *The Hunter Family* scrapbook written by Lawrence and Lettie Hunter was the first document the Trust published and distributed.



Lawrence Lee Hunter was born April 11, 1930, in Herrin, IL to Lee Melvin and Eunice (Rushing) Hunter. Lawrence's mother died in childbirth. He married Lettie Mae Stover on October 7, 1949, in Carbondale, IL and they shared 59 happy years together. He passed away on January 5, 2012, in the Crainville home where he had lived with his wife for over 50 years.

Lawrence remained active as an advisor to the Trust. He introduced me (RHH) to Hunter family history and for that I will always be grateful. Lawrence will be missed by many, especially his daughter, Ethel Sue (Richard) Holladay, son Larry Don (Pamm) Hunter, and his two grandsons, Kefren and Lucas Hunter.

Robert Shannon Hunter (1919-2012)

Judge Robert Shannon Hunter of Quincy, IL, aged 92, died February 22, 2012. Judge Hunter was one of the original founders of the Jacob Hunter Trust and provided legal guidance in the formation of the Trust. His publishing company, Justice Publications,

**The Jacob Hunter Trust
Phone: 618 997-1044**

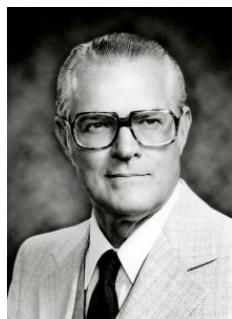
10202 Briggs Road

Marion, IL 62959-5844

e-mail: rich@jacobhuntertrust.org

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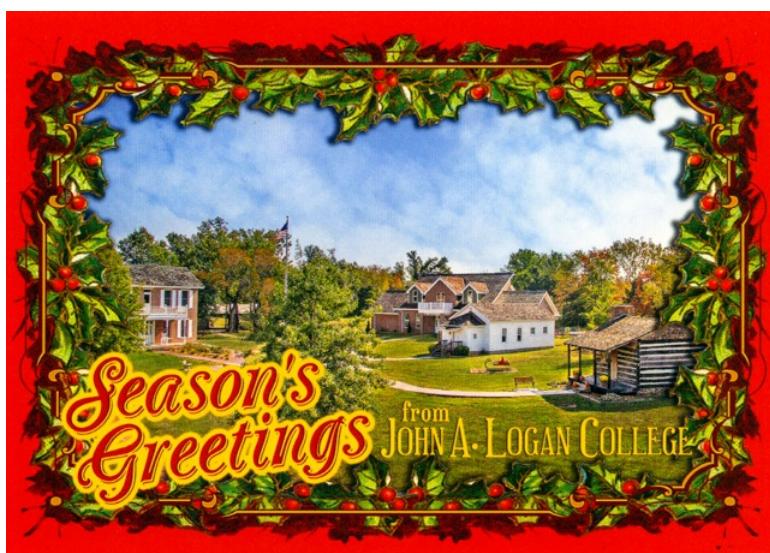
published Lawrence and Lettie Hunter's book, *The Hunter Family of Williamson County, Illinois and related Lee, Duncan, and Spiller Families* (1991).



Robert S. Hunter was the son of Clyde Holland Hunter, a well-renowned Hunter family genealogist. Robert Hunter was a County Judge for Adams County from 1946 until 1954 and was a Circuit Judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit from 1957 until 1964. He was a distinguished legal author and published numerous textbooks that were widely used in both academia and the practice of law.

Judge Hunter leaves a daughter, Linda L. (Ron) Hermann, a granddaughter, Nell Catherine (Matt) Madigan, and a great grandson, Hunter Matthew Madigan all of Champaign, Illinois. We all will miss his sage advice and his wonderful stories.

Hunter Cabin on John A. Logan College Christmas Card



The 2012 Christmas Cards for John A. Logan College feature a picture of its Historical Village and Emmanuel Hunter's cabin built in 1818. The Historical Village now has 18 docents who escort students and other visitors through the village (see: http://www.jalc.edu/historical_village/).

Financial Statement: Jacob Hunter Trust 2012

2012 was an unusual year for the Trust expenses. A major drought in the Midwest led to a substantially reduced need for mowing and maintenance at the cemeteries. Our expenses were unusually low as a result. This year, income exceeded expenses and the Trust was able to add to our CD. Interest earned on our CD and checking balance remained well below previous years.

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The Jacob Hunter Trust Account for 2012

DATE	ACTIVITY	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
1/1/12	Balance Forward			\$5,713.98
1/3/12	Richard H. Hunter		\$1,000.00	\$6,713.98
1/3/12	Julie Shedd, Website Development	\$200.00		\$6,513.98
1/3/12	Judith A. Mathews		\$200.00	\$6,713.98
1/5/12	Wayne Hunter		\$50.00	\$6,763.98
1/5/12	PayPal transaction fee	\$1.75		\$6,762.23
1/12/12	Cathy & Skip Crain *In Memory of Lawrence Hunter		\$20.00	\$6,782.23
1/12/12	Marie Samuel *In Memory of Lawrence Hunter		\$25.00	\$6,807.23
1/12/12	Collyn Pearl *In Memory of Lawrence Hunter		\$75.00	\$6,882.23
1/12/12	Gayl & Dick Pyatt *In Memory of L Hunter		\$25.00	\$6,907.23
1/12/12	Bob & Karla Mees *In Memory of L Hunter		\$50.00	\$6,957.23
1/12/12	Doris & Rich Rottschalk *In Memry of L. Hunter		\$50.00	\$7,007.23
1/12/12	Jane Robertson *In Memory of L Hunter		\$30.00	\$7,037.23
1/12/12	John Batteau *In Memory of Lawrence Hunter		\$35.00	\$7,072.23
1/12/12	Rich & Sheri Hunter *In Memory of L. Hunter		\$50.00	\$7,122.23
1/12/12	Larry & Sarah Haake *In Memory of L. Hunter		\$20.00	\$7,142.23
1/12/12	Chuck & Mary Jo Novack *In Mem of L. Hunter		\$20.00	\$7,162.23
1/12/12	Charles & Joyce Stevens *In Mem of L. Hunter		\$20.00	\$7,182.23
1/12/12	Jackie Mueller & Scott Coffman *L. Hunter		\$30.00	\$7,212.23
1/12/12	Jane & Jim Stalker *Memory of L Hunter		\$25.00	\$7,237.23
1/12/12	Wanda & Robert Boyd *In Memory of L. Hunter		\$25.00	\$7,262.23
1/12/12	Joann Slack *In Memory of Lawrence Hunter		\$20.00	\$7,282.23
1/12/12	Don & Janet Smith *In Memory of L. Hunter		\$50.00	\$7,332.23
1/12/12	Fred & Ann Huff *In Memory of L Hunter		\$20.00	\$7,352.23
1/12/12	Molly Newman & Jack Struck *L Hunter		\$25.00	\$7,377.23
1/12/12	Ken & Pam Henderson *In M of L. Hunter		\$40.00	\$7,417.23
1/12/12	Connie & George Hensley *Lawrence Hunter		\$25.00	\$7,442.23
1/12/12	Jan & Jim Henry *In Memory of L. Hunter		\$10.00	\$7,452.23
1/12/12	Barb Morgan *In Memory of Lawrence Hunter		\$10.00	\$7,462.23
1/12/12	Elsie Martin *In Memory of Lawrence Hunter		\$10.00	\$7,472.23
1/12/12	Candy Evans *In Memory of L. Hunter		\$10.00	\$7,482.23
1/12/12	Diane Davis *In Memory of Lawrence Hunter		\$10.00	\$7,492.23
1/12/12	Marcia Anderson *In Memory of L. Hunter		\$10.00	\$7,502.23
1/12/12	Nancy Gozenbach *In Memory of L. Hunter		\$10.00	\$7,512.23
1/12/12	Judith L. Cook *In Memory of Lawrence Hunter		\$30.00	\$7,542.23
1/12/12	Richard & Ethel Holladay *Mem of L. Hunter		\$100.00	\$7,642.23
1/13/12	Laura & John Johnson		\$100.00	\$7,742.23
1/17/12	Walter & Betsy Naumer *In Mem of L. Hunter		\$20.00	\$7,762.23
1/17/12	Eric & Sharon Fisher-Larson *L Hunter		\$100.00	\$7,862.23
1/18/12	Ella & John Abney		\$100.00	\$7,962.23
1/18/12	Interest on checking account		\$0.99	\$7,963.22
1/24/12	IL Business Education Assoc *L Hunter		\$75.00	\$8,038.22
1/24/12	Anna Nilsson *In Memory of Lawrence Hunter		\$25.00	\$8,063.22
2/3/12	Marilyn & William Satterwhite *L Hunter		\$20.00	\$8,083.22
2/17/12	Ronald Murphy		\$50.00	\$8,133.22
2/17/12	PayPal transaction fee	\$1.75		\$8,131.47
2/17/12	Interest on checking account		\$0.62	\$8,132.09
2/25/12	Kenneth Pankey		\$20.00	\$8,152.09
3/16/12	Interest on checking account		\$0.31	\$8,152.40
4/16/12	Linda & Ron Hermann		\$100.00	\$8,252.40
4/18/12	Interest on checking account		\$0.37	\$8,252.77

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Marion, IL 62959-5844

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4/30/12	Treasury Bill Interest HG8		\$96.88	\$8,349.65
5/1/12	Kenneth & Betty Pankey		\$100.00	\$8,449.65
5/18/12	Interest on checking account		\$0.34	\$8,449.99
5/29/12	Neil & Ruth Ann Quinn		\$250.00	\$8,699.99
6/1/12	Jeralds Lawn & Landscape AHC X 4; JHC X 3	\$305.00		\$8,394.99
6/8/12	Williamson County Treasurer	\$9.04		\$8,385.95
6/18/12	Robert Cowsert		\$25.00	\$8,410.95
6/18/12	Interest on checking account		\$0.36	\$8,411.31
6/25/12	John & Laura Hunter-Johnson		\$100.00	\$8,511.31
6/26/12	CD Interest		\$30.08	\$8,541.39
7/18/12	Interest on checking account		\$0.35	\$8,541.74
8/17/12	Interest on checking account		\$0.35	\$8,542.09
8/22/12	Carolyn Quinn		\$200.00	\$8,742.09
9/18/12	Interest on checking account		\$0.38	\$8,742.47
10/17/12	Jeralds Lawn & Landscape AHC X 4; JHC X 2	\$270.00		\$8,472.47
10/18/12	Interest on checking account		\$0.36	\$8,472.83
10/31/12	Treasury Bill HG8 Principle & Interest		\$5,096.88	\$13,569.71
11/16/12	Interest on checking account		\$0.46	\$13,570.17
11/29/12	Thomas E. Hunter		\$100.00	\$13,670.17
12/7/12	Cox's Lawn Service AHC X 2, JHT X 2	\$170.00		\$13,500.17
12/13/12	CD I 13 SIU Credit Union	\$10,000.00		\$3,500.17
12/17/12	Ray E Smith in Memory of Earl Ray Smith 11-24-2011		\$200.00	\$3,700.17
12/18/12	Interest on checking account		\$0.53	\$3,700.70
12/24/12	R. F. Hunter		\$250.00	\$3,950.70
12/28/12	Fred Hunter		\$100.00	\$4,050.70
	TOTAL		\$10,957.54	\$9,294.26
	TOTALS minus CD Transfers		957.54	\$4,294.26

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING AN ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE JACOB HUNTER TRUST

In addition to publishing family history through the Jacob Hunter Trust Newsletter, the Trust maintains three, historic, family cemeteries. The Braxton Lee Cemetery in Ashland City, TN is where our grandparents Braxton Lee, Annie Lee, Jacob Hunter, and Mary Polly Dancer Hunter Lee are buried. The Jacob Hunter Cemetery and the Allen Hunter Cemetery in Williamson County, IL are the burial locations of several of our great grandparents, great uncles, great aunts, and other family who married children or grandchildren of Jacob Hunter or the Reverend Allen Hunter. Costs associated with maintaining these two cemeteries with the respect due these early pioneers are substantial and will increase over time.

It is the objective of the Jacob Hunter Trust to raise sufficient funds so the account may be turned over to a professional trust administrator at a bank with a trust department. Before this can be done, the Trust needs to raise sufficient funds so that the interest on the money will cover the costs associated with perpetual care of these cemeteries.

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We are asking all interested individuals to donate each year so the income can exceed the annual costs of cemetery maintenance and build a balance to the level required to provide perpetual care based on annual earnings.

We also need people who are interested in providing support via Gifts and Bequests to the Jacob Hunter Trust. Judge Robert S. Hunter (1919-2012) has written instructions (see article below) for leaving money through one's will, "payable on death" (POD) to the Jacob Hunter Trust. The Jacob Hunter Trust is registered with the IRS as a tax-exempt 501 (c) 13 charitable organization. Donating to the Jacob Hunter Trust may provide substantial tax benefits.

Gifts and Bequests to the Jacob Hunter Trust

By Judge Robert S. Hunter (1919-2012)

Your gift or bequest can help to assure that the Jacob Hunter Cemetery, the Allen Hunter Cemetery, and the Braxton Lee Cemetery can be restored and maintained for eternity. The easiest way to accomplish this is to make gifts from time to time. You can do so by making checks payable to "Jacob Hunter Trust" where funds will be strictly controlled and used only for purposes that are consistent with the trust objectives.

You can remember the trust in your will. A simple bequest, as follows will suffice: "I give and bequeath to the Jacob Hunter Trust, a trust created to preserve the burial grounds of descendants of Jacob Hunter the sum of \$(amount)."

Another simple way to make a gift to the trust is known as the payable on death account (POD). You can open such an account at your bank or savings and loan. You open this kind of account by creating it in the name of "(Your name) Payable on Death to the Jacob Hunter Trust." The Trustee is Richard H. Hunter, 10202 Briggs Road, Marion, IL 62959-5844.

There are numerous advantages to such an account: 1. you retain full control over it as long as you live, 2. you can increase or decrease the amount or close it out without notifying anyone, 3. you are entitled to the income therefrom as long as you live, 4. it is entirely confidential. The only difference between it and any other account you own is that, upon your death, the balance that is in the account is paid to the Jacob Hunter Trust. The Jacob Hunter Trust is registered with the IRS as a tax-exempt 501 (c) (13) organization.

By contributing to the Trust, you will be strengthening our efforts to preserve family cemeteries, compile further historical information, and share information with interested relatives and selected public libraries.

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Notice to Readers:

For all readers of this Newsletter, please contact the Trust via email at: rich@jacobhuntertrust.org, by mail at: 10202 Briggs Road, Marion, IL 62959, or by phone at: 618 997-1044 to let us know if you would like to be removed from our mailing list, would like to add additional family members to our mailings, or would like to make a contributions to the Trust. Please visit our website and sign up to receive notice when we publish a newsletter, make a contribution to the Trust, or join in our blog.

The Jacob Hunter Trust has a few more copies of *Hunter-Lee Family Notes of Belva Armetta Hunter Hall* available for a donation of \$ 150.00 to the Jacob Hunter Trust. Throughout her life, Belva Hunter Hall was dedicated to preserving Hunter family history. She kept several small notebooks where she would record events, meetings with relatives, and listings of children and grandchildren. Belva was a granddaughter of the esteemed Reverend Allen Hunter and his wife Elizabeth Lee. Many of her notebooks and family records are preserved in the files of the Jacob Hunter Trust.

There are several pages discussing Jacob Hunter, Braxton Lee, Manuel Hunter, citing historical dates and family memories. Of special interest are notes Belva's father, Marion Jacob Hunter, wrote to her on June 14, 1922 and notes from her mother Sarah Florence Dial Hunter dated May 2, 1942. This book of Belva's handwritten notes is a valuable record, especially for descendants of the Reverend Allen Hunter and Elizabeth Lee and their 15 children

Ernest E. Hunt, IV maintains a genealogical record of our line of Hunters on his website: <http://mindspring.com/~hunter-family/index.htm>. We work closely with Mr. Hunt and maintain a link to his website from the Trust's website.

R. David Lee maintains a genealogy of the Lee family that is maintained on the Jacob Hunter Trust website.

Please visit these sites often along with the other family-related websites found in our “Links” section at www.JacobHunterTrust.org.

The Jacob Hunter Trust is grateful for your support of our work and our mission to preserve the rich history of our extended Hunter, Lee, and related families.